



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## Northeast Blueline Tilefish Fishery

### **Emergency Management Measures**

*Effective date: June 4, 2015*

We have implemented emergency measures for the Greater Atlantic Region's blueline tilefish fishery in response to a request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. These temporary measures are needed to constrain the expansion of the previously unregulated Greater Atlantic blueline tilefish fishery while the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Councils develop long-term management plans. The emergency regulations apply to vessels fishing for blueline tilefish in Federal waters north of the latitude of the Virginia/North Carolina border (36° 33' 01.0" N. lat.). Here are the measures:

#### For Charter/Party Vessels

- Now must hold a valid Greater Atlantic Region open access tilefish charter/party vessel permit to possess or land blueline tilefish, and must follow all recordkeeping and reporting requirements.
- The recreational possession limit for charter/party and private recreational anglers is **seven blueline tilefish per person, per trip.**

#### For Commercial Vessels

- Must hold a valid Greater Atlantic Region open access commercial tilefish vessel permit to possess or land blueline tilefish, and must follow all recordkeeping and reporting requirements.
- The commercial blueline tilefish possession limit is **300 lb whole weight per trip.**

#### Additional Information

- None of these measures modify existing regulations for golden tilefish or any other fisheries.
- These measures will be effective for six months, but may be extended for an additional six months if necessary. If you wish to comment on these temporary regulations, please refer to: <http://www.regulations.gov/>
- Vessels fishing for or possessing blueline tilefish south of the Virginia/North Carolina border must follow NMFS Southeast Region regulations: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/index.html)
- To obtain the necessary permits, please contact the Permits Office of the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office at (978) 281-9370, or refer to: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/fishing/index.html>
- For more information on this action, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315, or refer to: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>
- You will be notified if additional changes to the blueline tilefish fishery are made.

*This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*